

The Daily Oregonian.

K. V. MORNING, OCT. 22, 1860.

COMPARATIVE MERITS.

The confusion and disorder would be endless. Besides, every railroad which is undertaken and constructed as an actual business enterprise is entitled to make fair earnings. Instead of being annoyed by straw railroads, gotten up for speculative purposes, it ought to have protection from such annoyance. All schemes of legislation designed to interfere with the natural course of business, whether such interference comes in the form of heavy laws, protective tariff, management of railways or what else, is unjust to individuals, and in the long run injurious to the public. The only possible regulation of business on sound principle is secured through an open field and free competition. No one, and no interest, has a right to ask for more.

On this general subject there is a comparative record which it may be well to present. During the seventy-two years of our government, prior to 1861, a period mainly controlled by the democracy, the aggregate collections and disbursements were \$4,719,481,157. During the period from 1861 to 1870, under republican administration, the aggregate collections and disbursements, chiefly in consequence of war expenses, incurred through confederate democracy in rebellion, reached the vast total \$25,762,203,86. The aggregate losses under democracy in the period prior to 1861 were \$24,441,829 or \$5,17 in every \$100. Under the republicans, with more than five times the amount of receipts and disbursements, the aggregate losses were only 37 cents in every \$100. That is, the ratio of losses to the treasury was nearly ten times as great under democrats as it has been under republican administration.

There are now who think of Andrew Jackson's administration as a model of purity and reform. But under Jackson the losses aggregated \$3,761,111, or \$7.67 in every \$100; while under Grant the total losses were \$2,846,192, or 3¢ cents in every \$100. In other words, though the collections and disbursements under Grant were over sixteen times greater than under Jackson (owing to the growth of the country, the extension of public business and the burdens of the war debt), yet the aggregate losses under Jackson were nearly \$1,000,000 greater than under Grant, and in the ratio of losses in every \$100 was 22 times greater.

The truth is that while republican administration has been by no means perfect, yet it has introduced numerous and great reforms in the conduct of the public business, which give far more security for efficient and honest administration than under the old methods in use under the old democratic party controlled throughout the country.

THE LEVY BILL.

Gov. Thayer has done himself honor by his veto of the levy bill. His reasons are unanswerable, and therefore are in nowise affected by the passage of the bill over the veto.

It is simply an unparalleled act in a legislative body to assume to take or attempt to take property away from its rightful owners and confer it upon another. It is an act which

would easily release the sanction of men who had not been worked up by special influences to disregard the dictates of common sense, the common rights of property and the ordinary rules and proprieties of legislation.

The history of this bill again furnishes proof that any measure can be got through a legislative body which has backing strong enough to hire a lobby, bring members under "influence" and create an interest powerful enough to associate men together on the common principle of partisanship is wrong. No more indefensible act was ever passed by an Oregon legislature than this. It is a precedent which, as Governor Thayer says, can not be pernicious. It is equivalent to an announcement that a moneyed corporation, if it manipulates and dangles enough, may get any kind of bill through the legislature. It is a long stride towards putting up legislative favors for sale to the highest bidder and establishing the rule that a corporation may have through legislation what it wants.

Under every possible view this act is a wrong and an outrage. It is an act for which no due worth of the name has been attained, and, or can possibly be offered. But the principal

idea behind the bill is to sustain the

principal claim which it presents.

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